UNITED
NATIONS

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/22157
28 January 1991
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

LETTER DATED 28 JANUARY 1991 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CUBA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to request you to call a formal meeting of the Security Council as soon as possible to review the situation in the Gulf.

The Government of the Republic of Cuba believes that the Council must assume its responsibilities under the Charter of the United Nations for the maintenance of international peace and security; in our view, the only legitimate way to do this is to hold a formal debate in the Security Council so that the Council can take appropriate steps to end the hostilities and bring the conflict now gripping this important part of the world towards a diplomatic and peaceful solution.

The request made to you by a number of delegations, including a member of the Security Council, to this end, a request in which my delegation joins, makes it necessary to implement the relevant regulatory measures immediately, particularly article 2 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, which stipulates that "The President shall call a meeting of the Security Council at the request of any member of the Security Council."

Under this rule, the Security Council is compelled to take action when requested to do so by a member State. It is also required to act under rule 3 of its provisional rules of procedure, which authorizes any State Member of the United Nations to request the Security Council to call a meeting in order to consider "a dispute or situation ... under Article 35" of the Charter.

In other words, the requests made by the countries of the Arab Maghreb, joined by the Sudan, Jordan and Yemen and now by Cuba, are covered by rules of the Council's provisional rules of procedure and by articles of the Charter, the clarity and relevance of which are beyond question.

In view of the foregoing, I should be grateful, Sir, if you would immediately call a formal meeting of the Security Council for the purposes set out in this letter.